

Fiscal Year 2017 Narrative

Department: Council on Aging

1. What do you want the Selectmen, Finance Committee and public know about what you've done in Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 (to date)?
 - Completed CDBG funded feasibility study, identifying senior demographic projections and best location for a new Senior Center
 - Completed town wide survey identifying senior needs and community preferences for a new Senior Center. Held two (Turners Falls & Montague Center) public discussions on same
 - Average daily attendance at Senior Center is currently 45
 - Average monthly COA referral, benefit, & service clients (e.g. fuel assistance, food stamps, home care, transportation, Medicare, other referrals) currently 25
 - Added weekly Veterans' Agent office hours with Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services at Senior Center
 - Installed digital programmable thermostats at Senior Center to better regulate heating system for savings as well as to improve comfort level for users and visitors
 - Added seasonal Hatha Yoga series to wellness program at the Senior Center
2. Please explain any significant changes in your budget for Fiscal Year 2017, including any staff changes (if that impacts your budget).
 - Projected additional \$2000 for materials for Senior Center exterior painting anticipated to be performed by the Franklin County House of Correction work program
 - Projected additional \$800 to address ongoing problems with Senior Center wiring
 - Projected additional \$800 for digital projector and screen & peripherals for the Senior Center
3. Is there anything specific or new that you plan to accomplish in Fiscal Year 2017 with the level-services budget you've requested?
 - We have plans for a volunteer driven lecture series
4. Is there anything you'd like to ADD to your level-services budget for Fiscal Year 2017? If so, describe what it is, what it would cost, and the benefit to the town.
 - Please see item 2 above
5. What are your plans for improvements and projects for the next five years?
 - First priority is to continue moving toward building a new Senior / Community Center
 - Absent a solid and realistic plan to do so, we need to improve the existing Senior Center in the following ways
 - Have roof inspected for potential maintenance issues
 - Paint Exterior (see above)
 - Correct electrical problems interior and exterior
 - Install replacement windows (8)
 - Refinish floors (kitchen, bathroom, and common room)
 - Remediate mold in basement
 - Resurface basement walls
 - Fit cabinetry into the existing common room to better maximize floor space and improve appearance
 - Install an automatic door for ramp entrance
 - Replace street-side sign and add directional sign at the corner of 5th and Avenue A